

Lake St. Croix Beach Transparency Project

Public Record Document

Subject: Request for Action on Mayor's Absenteeism and Accountability

Date: December 10, 2025

To: Lake St. Croix Beach City Council

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and other concerned residents of Lake St. Croix Beach regarding the prolonged absenteeism of Mayor Tom McCarthy. Over the past few months, Mayor McCarthy has been residing outside the state of Minnesota, spending the majority of the year in Florida, and conducting city business remotely.

As a Lake St. Croix Beach resident and taxpayer, I am deeply concerned that the mayor's extended absences have resulted in a lack of effective leadership, diminished community engagement, and a failure to fulfill the duties expected of the office. The mayor's absence from key city meetings, local events, and day-to-day governance has left many of us feeling disconnected and underserved. As a community, we deserve leadership that is physically present and engaged in the issues affecting our city.

I, along with many of my fellow residents, respectfully request that the City Council take immediate and effective action on this matter. Specifically, we ask that the City Council:

1. Investigate the mayor's residency and absenteeism to determine whether his extended time away from the city violates the city charter or any legal residency requirements.
2. Schedule a public hearing to address the concerns raised by residents regarding the mayor's absenteeism, the impact on the city's governance, and what steps the Council plans to take moving forward.
3. Consider appropriate action to hold the mayor accountable, which could include a formal investigation, a call for resignation, or initiating the recall process, if necessary.

We believe that leadership is essential to the success of our city, and it is imperative that the mayor's actions be aligned with the expectations of the residents who elected him.

I respectfully ask for your commitment to addressing this issue and for a timely response outlining the Council's next steps. Our community deserves leadership that is actively involved and accountable to the people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Dawn Bulera
Former City Council Member, Lake St. Croix Beach